

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /083 W
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P 160927Z AUG 76
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6202
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY CH
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE - AUGUST 16

REF: PEKING 1598

1. MFA LATE LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 15) TELEPHONED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN PEKING: BEGIN QUOTE: ACCORDING TO THE REPORT FROM THE STATE SEISMOLOGICAL BUREAU ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN TANGSHAN AND FENGAN AREA, THE GENERAL TENDENCY IS THAT AFTERSHOCK ACTIVITIES ARE DIMINISHING. BUT THERE WILL BE UPS AND DOWNS IN THE PROCESS. THERE MAY BE FAIRLY STRONG AFTERSHOCKS. THE ABNORMAL PHENOMENA THAT EXISTED IN THE PEKING AREA IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE IN THE MAIN DISAPPEARED, AND NO STRONG EARTHQUAKES WILL OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END QUOTE.

2. BEGINNING EARLY MORNING AUGUST 16, LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN DOWN THEIR SHELTERS LINING PEKING'S STREETS AND MOVED BACK INTO THEIR REGULAR QUARTERS. AS OF 1600 AUGUST 16, MAJOR AVENUES SUCH AS CHANG AN AND HSI TAN WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY CLEAR OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES. SOME PARKS ARE STILL "TENT CITIES."

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3. REPAIR OF DAMAGED BUILDINGS, WHICH BEGAN LAST WEEK, IS

PROCEEDING APACE. IN MOST CASES PATCHWORK SEEMS TO BE ORDER OF THE DAY, RETAINING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLLE EXISTING STRUCTURES. MANY WALL SLOGANS EXPRESS THANKS TO THE PLA, WHICH HAS BEEN ASSISTING IN THIS WORK.

4. THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICES BUREAU THIS MORNING INFORMALLY ADVISED FOREIGN MISSIONS THAT THEIR APARTMENTS ARE "USABLE." ELEVATORS IN MOST APARTMENT BUILDINGS HAVE RESUMED OPERATION, AND SOME FOREIGNERS HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE BACK INTO THEIR APARTMENTS. THE PEKING HOTEL IS STILL LARGELY EMPTY OF GUESTS, BUT THE DESK, IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY, SAID THAT ALL FLOORS IN THE HOTEL WERE OPEN AGAIN FOR OCCUPANCY. THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE FRIENDSHIP STORE REMAIN CLOSED. THERE IS NO WORD IF OR WHEN THE CAPITAL HOSPITAL (WHICH HAS SHIFTED SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION CENTER) OR THE HSINCHIAO HOTEL WILL REOPEN.

5. A USLO REQUEST FOR A TRIP TO HSINKANG TO DRIVE BACK NEWLY ARRIVED AUTOMOBILES WAS TURNED DOWN, AS WAS A REQUEST FOR ORIENTATION TRAVEL TO THE NORTHEAST.

6. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE ABOUT TREMORS AND/OR AN EARTHQUAKE DRILL IN CANTON IS SKETCHY AND OFTEN CONTRADICTIONARY. A JAPANESE DELEGATION THAT WAS TO HAVE GONE TO CHENG TU FOR THE INAUGURATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUGUST 15 OR 16 WAS ASKED TO POSTPONE ITS TRIP OWING TO THE "POSSIBILITY" OF AN EARTHQUAKE.

GATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, NATURAL DISASTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760314-1375
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760850/aaaabrhv.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PEKING 1598
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE - AUGUST 16
TAGS: TPHY, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006